

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RANGOO 02349 292009Z

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IO-06 HA-02 NEA-07 INR-05

CIAE-00 SP-02 NSCE-00 L-01 DODE-00 ICA-01 /045 W

-----093170 301356Z /46

R 290903Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5595

INFO CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 2349

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, SHUM, BG, BM

SUBJECT: MUSLIMS FROM BURMA IN BANGLADESH

REF: STATE 161517

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFERENCED INSTRUCTION, EMBASSY OFFICER PRESENTED US VIEWS ON BANGLADESH REFUGEE SITUATION TO U TIN TUN, ACTING DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN MINISTRY AMERICAS DIVISION, ON JUNE 28. U TIN TUN WAS ALSO BRIEFED ON US HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE EFFORT.

2. AT CONCLUSION OF THE PRESENTATION, U TIN TUN SAID THAT HE HAD FEARED THE US WAS GOING TO TRY TO "DICTATE" TO BURMA HOW TO HANDLE THE REFUGEE PROBLEM, BUT AFTER HEARING OUR VIEWS HE SAW THAT THIS WAS NOT THE CASE. HE MADE REFERENCE TO THE BAD INTERNATIONAL PRESS BURMA WAS GETTING ON THE REFUGEE ISSUE, EXPRESSING REGRET THAT SOME PEOPLE WERE TRYING TO MAKE A POLITICAL ISSUE OUT OF SOMETHING THAT WAS BASICALLY AN
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IMMIGRATION PROBLEM. HE INDICATED THAT BURMA DID NOT ANTICIPATE A MASS EXODUS OF MUSLIM INHABITANTS WHEN IT INITIATED THE IMMIGRATION CHECK AND WAS WELL AWARE OF THE LONG TERM DANGERS POSED BY THE REFUGEES. FOR THAT REASON, BURMA IS NEGOTIATING SERIOUSLY AND IN GOOD FAITH WITH BANGLADESH TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM. HE EXPRESSED THE BELIEF THE PROBLEM COULD BE RESOLVED AMICABLY, WITHOUT MEDIATION BY AN OUTSIDE POWER, PROVIDED NOBODY

MADE UNREASONABLE DEMANDS. HE NOTED THAT BURMA WAS DRAWING UP
A LIST OF REFUGEES ENTITLED TO RETURN WHICH IT WILL PRESENT AT
THE NEXT ROUND OF TALKS.
BEAN

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 29 jun 1978
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
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